

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 therein. Applicants have also amended claims 3 and 4 in order to address dependency issues created by canceling claim 2. Finally applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 to address indefiniteness issues.

Claims 8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Specifically, the examiner objects to the use of the term "substantially" indicating that it makes the claims indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 to remove said term. Therefore, this issue should now be moot.

Claims 1, 4-8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hodges (GB 2,187,267). Applicants assume that these rejections actually only apply to claims 1 and 13 since claims 4-8 and 12 ultimately depended upon claim 2, which the examiner indicated within the Detailed Action contained allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 (the grain stimulant comprising a rubber material) therein. All claims depend upon claims 1 and 13, and, therefore, also include this limitation. Because the Hodges reference does not disclose the limitation of the grain stimulant comprising a rubber material, this amendment should overcome the above referenced anticipation rejection. Also, because the examiner states that claim 2 is allowable, applicants have basically rewritten claims 1 and 13 to reflect claim 2 as an independent claim, and all of the other claims within the application depend upon claims 1 and 13, these claims should also, now, be allowable.

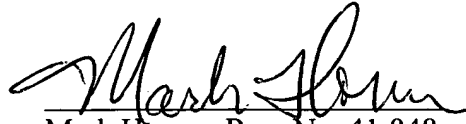
Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 1 and 3-14 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the examiner to withdraw all objections and

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Navy Case No. 79,167
Application No. 09/853,076

rejections and allow said claims. Should the examiner need more information regarding this matter or have further suggestions regarding this application, feel free to call the undersigned at 301-744-5603.

Respectfully submitted,


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